

**Public Input Shapes Public Art in La Jolla
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the La Jolla Light, July 2007**

Since 2004, the City of San Diego has included a public art component in most community improvement and other public projects. Along with the Public Art Master Plan, also approved by the City Council in 2004, this policy aims to create original art in local communities, to foster artistic expression and create a source of neighborhood pride.

Council District One is home to a number of public art installations, including the North Torrey Pines Road Bridge, and site-specific installations at the La Jolla Library, North City Water Reclamation Plant and Doyle Park. Later this summer, a major public art piece will be installed at the Nobel Park and Library Complex in University City. Other projects in the pipeline include works for Fire Station 47 in North City and the proposed La Jolla Shores lifeguard tower.

As part of its public art mandate, the City's Commission for Arts and Culture coordinates the Storm Drain Monitoring Utility Boxes Public Art Project. Five years ago, the City approved its Low Flow Storm Drain Diversion project, by which 27 utility boxes will be installed along the coast between Point Loma and Torrey Pines, to monitor storm water runoff and protect our beaches and water ways from excessive pollution. A public art project will be associated with the installation of the utility boxes.

After four years of community input and design, the storm drain monitoring utility box public art project is nearly ready for installation. Through a competitive selection process, San Diego sculptor and UCSD lecturer Neal Bociek was chosen for his *Landsailers* design. Mr. Bociek holds a Masters in Fine Art from the University of Notre Dame, and previously worked with famed San Diego sculptor Italo Scanga. His work has been included in a number of local and regional shows, including a group exhibition at the Athenaeum.

Landsailers consists of 10 individual sculptures, depicting unique sailing machines on wheels. Each sculpture will sit atop a table structure placed over the metal utility box. Materials and installation method were selected to deter vandalism. In addition, the City has a process in place for surveying the condition of the sculptures once installed.

Since 2003, a series of community meetings have been held to introduce Mr. Bociek and familiarize the public with his work and this project. Over the course of six meetings, community members had the opportunity to review the *Landsailers* design in different phases and share their thoughts. Representatives from a wide variety of community groups participated, including the La Jolla Shores Association, La Jolla Town Council, the CPA, Historical Society and Promote La Jolla.

Last month, community members met with Mr. Bociek to preview the sculpture designs, which will be installed within the next six to nine months.

Thank you to each of the community members who took time to help guide the design of this exciting project.